

Why do I need an International Driver's Permit if I travel outside Germany? by Joerg Modellmog

In March 1998, USAREUR stopped issuing POV licenses. The "U.S. Forces Certificate of License," often incorrectly still referred to as the "USAREUR Drivers License," is **NOT** a driver's license but merely a certificate confirming that the holder is in possession of a valid stateside license (Art. 9 SA).

Since the Supplementary Agreement (SA) to the Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) is only a treaty binding Germany and the respective NATO SOFA Member State, that document is only valid in Germany. Most other European Countries, to include other NATO Member States, require an International Driving License to be legal to drive.

Austria and France in par-

ticular are strictly enforcing that requirement and are ticketing SOFA personal and their dependents who don't have an international driver's license. Note, even the International Driver's License is not a license but merely a permit, requiring an actual State Driver's License on which it will be based.

Obtaining an International Driver's Permit (IDP) is a two-step process. First, stop by the Driver Testing Office on Daenner Kaserne (Bldg. 3107, 2nd floor) or Ramstein Air Base (Bldg. 2106, Room 206). They will check your license in the USAREUR database and stamp a confirmation form, available either at their offices or your Legal Assistance Office.

The stamped form must then be taken within one

week to the German Driver's License Office of the county or city where you live along with a passport size photo and (currently) €15.30. If the German Driver's License Office refuses to process your application, you can always obtain an International Driver's License through your local American Automobile Association (AAA) office back home in the States.

Finally, the latest version of Army in Europe Regulation (AER) 27-9, dealing with Misconduct by Civilians, was issued on 18 April 2006. It confirms the strict sanctions of its previous version with respect to many vehicle-related incidents, e.g., DUIs.

If you have further questions, you can pick up a detailed handout at your Legal Assistance Office or make an appointment by calling DSN 483-8848 or Civilian 0631-411-8848.



Business came to a screeching halt at the Kaiserslautern Legal Services Center on Thursday, 13 July, when Cher showed up to visit Soldiers at the 21st TSC Medical Transient Company, which occupies the two floors above the Legal Services Center. We've never seen our client waiting room empty out so fast! Everyone wanted to have their picture taken with a living legend. Cher is pictured here with one of her biggest fans, 21st TSC Legal Administrator CW3 Marybeth Fangman.

These handouts are available at the Legal Assistance Office front desk:

- Banks & Bills
- Drinking & Driving Rules in Germany
- Illegitimate Paternity Rules in Germany
- Powers of Attorney
- Service of Process from the USA to Germany
- German Landlord-Tenant Law
- Plus many others...

Advance Medical Directives, by Jim Wiley

One of the most frightening things that can occur in life is a loss of control due to health issues. Your legal assistance office offers planning that helps ensure your wishes regarding health care will be followed in most situations when you no longer can decide for yourself.

Creating documents referred to as advance medical directives and health care powers of attorney is now a

routine part of estate planning. At the same time you and your lawyer prepare a will to take care of your property, you can execute an advance medical directive and a health care power of attorney that direct how you want to be cared for when you no longer can decide for yourself.

In the absence of documents expressing your wishes regarding your health care,

many states do not allow anyone, not even your spouse, to make any kind of health decisions on your behalf. The only option left to them would be to attempt to file a court petition. These types of hearings can be expensive and emotionally draining. The best way to avoid this is to take advantage of the free legal assistance services available to you and generate an advance medical directive and health care power of

attorney.

Most states have common requirements for these directives to be valid. First, they must be in writing and be notarized. Second, the directive is only valid if you are competent. State laws about how these documents must be witnessed vary greatly. As such, it is always a good idea to get your lawyer's help to assure these directives meet the requirements of your state.